

THE
Devonshire WOMAN

Or, A wonderful Narrative of

FRANCES FLOOD,

Shewing how she was taken by the Small-pox
in the street of *Saltford*, near *Bath*, in the
Year 1723 ; and having no Place of Abode
[being a Stranger] she got to a Barn in the
said Town, where her Legs broke short off
in the Small ; and was healed without the
Help of Physician or Surgeon.



Licensed and Entered according to Order.

The Devonshire Woman.

I Frances Flood, was born in Gitson, near Honiton in Devonshire; and on the 22d of January, 1723, being 32 Years of Age, I went from Philips Norton to the Town of Saltford, where I paid for lodging at an Inn. I arose well in the Morning, thinking to go about my Business; but being come out of the Door, I was taken very ill, and before I came to the Village, I was not sensible in what Condition I was in, and not able to go, was forced to hold by the Wall as I went along: With great Difficulty I got to the Overseer's House, and desir'd him to get me a Lodging, but he denied me; whereupon I went up the Street and lay in a Hog-sty, where many People came to see me. I lay there till the Evening in a sad Condition, when the Owner's Wife of that Place led me to the Overseer's again, but he still denied me Relief; and, not being very sensible, I return'd again to the same Place, but they had been so inhuman as to put some Dung into it, to prevent my lodging there again; but at last I got into another which had no Cover over it as the other had. In the Morning when I awoke, I went into the Street, and with Weakness fell down, so that Streams of Water run over me, till helped up by the Clerk of the Parish's

Parish's Wife, who led me till I came to the Wall, by which I held, and with great trouble got to the Barn, and a Stranger let me in, but the Owner of the Barn was so barbarous as to unhang the Door the next day; a young Man, out of Compassion, hung the Door again; the Owner was so displeased, that he came a second Time and unhung it.

The next day the Small-Pox appeared on me, and was noised about insomuch that the Overseer came and put up the Door, and then I had both Meat and Drink, - but took no further Care of me for 14 Days; the Small-pox appeared very-kind and favourable and might have done very well, had I not been taken in my Legs, and should have been able to go away in a Fortnight; after which I was taken in my Calfs, which turned black and cold, and looked much like Scalds, and broke out. I applied to them first of all a Bathe, but the Flesh speedily parted from the small of my Legs to the Bones. I had then by me some Ointment, which was brought me by the Overseer, but had no one to help me to dress my Wounds, but did all my self,

I freely forgive all the Parish; and as for the Overseers, they did to the utmost of their Power, when my Flesh was separated; and, whatever I desired of them they sent me, so I desire that all may be blameless of my Misfortunes.

fortunes. My Pains increased to a wonderful Degree, and my Legs grew worse, and was driven to dismal Extremety, and lay in that Condition three Weeks.

On the 18th Day of *March*, about 8 o'Clock in the Evening there came a Woman to the Barn-door to ask me how I did ; I was going to shew her how my Legs were, and how the Flesh was separated from the Bones, and, leaning a little harder than ordinary upon my left Leg, it broke off as though it were a rotten Stick, a little below the Calf ; the Woman left me, and I was surpriz'd, but God enabled me to bind up my Leg again with the same Medicines as before ; and when most of the People of the Village were at rest, then a Man that liv'd over against the Barn, came to see me, and asked me how I did ? I desired him to get me some Beer at the Overseer's, but he fetched me some of his own and left me, so there was no one with me. I submitted my self to God, and after some time fell asleep, and slept till the Morning, and, as soon as 'twas Light, dressed the Wound before any came to me, and the Flesh covered the Bone, but had no Loss of Marrow, and but little of Blood, nor hardly any Pain ; the Mercies then received at the Hands of God, exceeded all the Punishment was due to me thro' Sin, and his Mercy I never did deserve. I was visited by abundance of People, and amongst them
God

God sent me the Minister of *Keinsham*, and Mr. *Brown* of the same Town came along with him, and they afforded me much Comfort ; they told me they never saw the like, and it was God's handy Work, and not Man's, so taking their leave of me, they wished that the God of Heaven might be my Physician, and it gave me both a merry Heart and chearful Countenance, and gave them Thanks for what Favours I had received from them, and my Pains still ceased. Abundance came both far and near all the Week to see me ; but upon Sunday I had scores of People to visit me, and amongst the rest a Surgeon, who persuaded me to have the Bone of my right Leg taken off, to which I gave Consent. On the 25th, about 6 in the Morning, when I arose and opened the Cloaths, I found my Legs were fallen from me, and the Pains I then suffered were not worthy to be called Pains, so I drest it with the same Medicine I made use of before ; within two Hours after came several People to visit me. I unbound the Cloaths and the Flesh was closed over the Bone, the Blood was stop'd, so I had great Reason to praise the Lord for all his Mercies and Favours I had receiv'd from Time to Time.

*The Epitaph in Saltford Church-Yard, where the
Legs were buried.*

S Top Reader, and a Wonder see,
As strange as e'er was known,
My Feet drop'd off from my Body
In the Middle of the Bone:
I had no Surgeon for my Help,
But God Almighty's Aid,
In whom I ever will rely,
And never be afraid.
Tho' here beneath they lie
Corruption for to see;
Yet they shall one Day re-unite
To all Eternity.

The P R A Y E R.

*Hosea vi, 1. Come and let us return unto the
Lord, for he hath torn and will heal us, he hath
smitten and will bind us up.*

O Most gracious God, and loving Father,
which givest Health to make the better
acknowledge thee, and thy Liberality towards
me; and sometimes sendest Sickness to recal
me to Amendment, when I have sinned against
thee. I thy humble Servant, for this and thy
Servants thus afflicted, do humbly beseech
thee

thee, not to enter into a severe Judgment with me for my Life and Condition; but in Remembrance of thine own Mercies, to forgive me my Sins; and, on the Satisfaction of thy Son, for to acquit me of thy Judgments. O Lord! Grant me a true Zeal for thine holy Name, and all Affections agreeable to thy blessed Will, that I may rightly receive the gracious Offers of thy Mercy. Qualify, Lord, all these Troubles, that either the Grievousness of my Sins remembered, or the Bitterness of my Pangs sustained, thro' the Subtilty of the common Enemy, or the Fear of Death should bring upon me; and lay no more upon me, O Lord, than I am able to bear. Speak comfortably unto me, as thou do'st unto all those, who have sought Comfort in the like Tribulations. Dispose and move my Heart, to receive this thy fartherly Correction and gracious Visitation with the Patience of *Job*, the Faith of *Abraham*, the Joy of *Paul*, the Courage of *Peter*, and a true Submission to thy Will for Life or Death: And though these outward Senses, the Tongue and Voice, are not so quick as they have been for to praise thee; yet, Lord, I beseech thee to stir up my Heart, inflame and inspire my Mind, to perform such as thou requirest, as may be profitable for my Soul in this Extremity. Apply, O Lord, the holy and wholesome Medicines of thy Son's Passion, Death, and Resurrection, unto

unto my Soul, against Fear, Faintness, Doubt
and Desperation. Take away the Extremity
of my Pains, mitigate my Sorrows, make my
Bed, wipe my Tears from mine Eyes, and ease
my careful Conscience. Open thine Arms to
receive me into thy Favour, that when the
Time is come, I may go unto my Grave in
Peace; and, in the mean time, O Lord, settle
thou my Spirits, that they may not wander, or
fly out into any unbecoming Motions, con-
tinue my Remembrance, that I may not forget
thee, but daily and hourly have thee in my
Mind, who art the Author of my Safety.
Keep my Tongue from all vain and idle Talk,
mine Heart from all Fears, and protect me
safe under thy Wings. Be merciful unto me,
who, as a feeing Member of one Body, adore
thy holy Name, and implore thy divine Help
for myself. And let this my Example teach
me more Humility, Fear, and Reverence to-
wards thee. Now and ever hear my Prayer,
O Lord, for Jesus Christ his Sake. *Amen.*



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